

VLR-5/21/74 NRHP-6/19/74

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE
Virginia
COUNTY
Isle of Wight
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME	
COMMON:	Boykin's Tavern
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:	
Isle of Wight		Fourth (Robert W. Daniel, Jr.)	
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Virginia	51	Isle of Wight	093

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered
		<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) vacant
<input type="checkbox"/> Comments			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME:			
Isle of Wight County			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:	CODE
Isle of Wight		Virginia	51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.			
Isle of Wight County Court House			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:	CODE
Isle of Wight		Virginia	51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY:			
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1969			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
Library of Congress			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:	CODE
Washington		D. C.	11

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FOR NPS USE ONLY

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					(Check One)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	
	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The only surviving structure associated with the original Isle of Wight Courthouse of 1800, Boykin's Tavern was built by Colonel Francis Boykin in the late eighteenth century. Possibly begun as a story and a half, center-hall, double-pile plan structure, the tavern underwent two major periods of additions. The first additions, including the elevation of the main block to two stories and a one-and-a-half story frame gambrel roof wing, were built in the early nineteenth century. In 1900-1902 Boykin's Tavern received numerous repairs and alterations including the present porch, a second two-story frame wing and some interior remodeling.

Built on a slight rise adjacent to the present courthouse and the Clerk's Office of 1822, the original core of Boykin's Tavern, consisting of a frame one story structure with brick ends and shallow gable roof is a mixture of eighteenth and nineteenth century architectural types. Although some of the original window sash was replaced around 1900, early sash surviving on the south wall shows a dimension in proportion from nine-over-nine on the first floor to six-over-six in the attic. The brick ends and chimneys follow eighteenth century precedent in the use of English bond foundations with beveled watertable surmounted by Flemish bond walls and exterior chimney bases with tiled shoulders to the second floor level. Above the first weatherings the masonry shifts to three-course American bond with rough shoulders. In addition to the weatherings at the attic floor level, the chimneys at Boykin's Tavern also have the unusual feature of weatherings at the roof line conforming to the pitch of the gable. On the east facade of the Tavern is a two-story porch which, while almost completely a product of the 1900 alterations, may retain some of the architectural elements of a similar but earlier porch. A full cellar laid in English bond and having an original entry in the south wall has been partially backfilled to the east.

The woodwork and interior trim of Boykin's Tavern more closely illustrates the building's transitional character between Colonial and Federal styles. While the center hall and south rooms were gutted and refinished in the early twentieth century, the north first floor rooms and the second floor rooms preserve their original woodwork. Although slightly altered, the northeast first floor room retains a partially paneled end wall with beveled panels, a simple mantel molding and early chimney closet. The northwest room is much richer; having a fully paneled chimney breast decorated with a molded mantel with crossettes and beveled panels flanked by fluted pilasters set on pedestals. Crowning the composition is delicately executed cornice with Wall-of-Troy moulding. The remaining walls have a fully paneled chest-high dado with a similar cornice and Wall-of-Troy moulding. Access between the two north rooms of the original block and the passage between the northwest room of the tavern and hall of the gambrel roof addition is gained through two sets of multiple folding six and three-panel doors with flat panels and butt hinges. The survival of this unusual interior feature on a public house of this period is rare in Virginia. The second floor interiors reflect the Federal style of the early nineteenth century through the use of six panel doors and four original mantels characterized by period motifs as deeply moulded mantel shelves and gracefully fluted pilasters.

The frame gambrel roof wing is a simple hall-parlor plan structure on a full basement. The brickwork for both the basement and exterior-end chimney is laid in three-course American bond. Covered with beaded weatherboarding the exterior presents a picturesque appearance with its three-bay

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(Continuation Sheet)

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Virginia	
COUNTY	
Isle of Wight	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7.  
facade and fine later door hood. The wing's interior retains a Federal-period mantel and double beaded chairboard as well as a fine closed string corner stair with square balusters and simple newel. Like the main block of the Tavern, the rear wing retains some original sash and early glazing.

The alterations of 1900-1902 have had a relatively minor effect on the architectural appearance of the original tavern and wing. Exterior alterations included the addition of a two-story frame wing, the replacement of some original sash and the extensive rebuilding of the present porch. Additions to the early wing were confined to the introduction of a modern doorway in the south wall and the modification of some interior space into pantries and closets.

To the immediate northwest of the tavern are the deteriorated remains of an early dairy. Built on brick piers and covered with beaded siding, the dairy is particularly noteworthy for its raised six panel door with early nineteenth century wood cased lock and HL hinges, its early shelves and fine original sawnwork vents.

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)			
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>history</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The original core of Boykin's Tavern was built on a four hundred acre tract of land valued at 300 pounds soon after its purchase by Francis Boykin from Robert Marshall in 1780. An influential figure in the history of Isle of Wight County, Francis Boykin served in the Revolution as a lieutenant with Patrick Henry in the 4th Company of the First Virginia Regiment and as a major in the Continental Line. In 1792 Boykin was appointed sheriff for Isle of Wight County and in 1797 served as a justice on the County's courts.

In 1800, in co-operation with the County's decision to move the County Court House from its mid-eighteenth century seat in the Town of Smithfield to a more central location, Francis Boykin deeded to the Commonwealth of Virginia "... a certain tract of land in said County situate near the dwelling or mansion house of said Boykin containing two acres... with all houses and improvements." In exchange for this title and an agreement that Francis Boykin would build the new courthouse buildings including stocks, a jail and clerk's office, the County gave Boykin the deed to the Smithfield courthouse property and buildings.

Upon his death in 1804, Francis Boykin's will provided that his "courthouse plantation" be left to his son Francis Marshall Boykin. It was probably during Francis Marshall Boykin's ownership that Boykin's Tavern was raised to its present two-story elevation and received the gambrel roof wing to the rear. Although no specific reference is made to the building as a tavern at this time, R. A. Brock in his historical sketch of Isle of Wight County published in 1882 describes the building as "the old hotel".

With Boykin's deed to the County in 1800 the problem of finding a centrally located county seat which had inconvenienced the citizens of Isle of Wight County for almost one hundred fifty years was resolved. Characterized by its fine period interior woodwork and prestigious location Boykin's Tavern stands today as the only surviving structure associated with the original Isle of Wight Court House of 1800.

B.H.

# 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Isle of Wight, Deed Book 17, p. 54.

Isle of Wight, Deed Book 18, p. 597.

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission files.

# 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		36 ° 54 ' 27 "	76 ° 42 ' 35 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than an acre.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

# 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:	
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff	
ORGANIZATION	DATE
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission	May, 1974
STREET AND NUMBER:	
221 Governor Street	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE
Richmond	Virginia
	CODE
	51

# 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

# NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Director  
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
 Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

